

**City of Bainbridge Island Ethics Board
Annual Report: 2012
January 28, 2013**

The Board met eleven times in 2012, issued one Advisory Opinion, and dismissed two others as outside the Board's jurisdiction.

The Board also amended its Operating Rules and Best Practices Guide to be consistent with the 2011 Code. These documents were approved by the Council in March 2012.

After the adoption by the City Council of the Board's proposed revisions to the Ethics program in March 2011, and in the face of concerns which arose regarding the fairness of the complaint process, the Board proposed modifications to the Code and the Board's Operating Procedures. The modifications were discussed in joint meeting of the Council and the Board in June 2012. The modifications were rejected, and the Council eliminated Article III. D. 3(g), regarding the basis for referral of complaints to the Council.

The Board prepared an educational brochure for distribution to the Council and community members. The brochure should be available in of January 2013.

The Board also worked on an educational piece to be printed in the *Bainbridge Island Review*, addressing the Code and function of the Ethics Board in City government. This should be printed in February 2013.

Work plan for 2013:

1. Draft language to provide that Councilmembers-elect be covered by the Code, and present the revisions to the Council.
2. Revise Advisory Opinion and Complaint forms to clarify their respective purposes, and make it easier for citizens complete the forms.
3. Revise the lower monetary amount in the definition if a major contractor.
4. Clarify application of Code to City Manager as an appointee of the Council.
5. Address issue of citizen requests for Advisory Opinions (not Complaints) in regard to elected officials.
6. Clean up inconsistencies and grammatical errors in current ordinance
7. Present revised Code to City Administration and arrange for its dissemination to the City's staff.

8. Continue to present quarterly ethics trainings to Council regarding various issues.
9. Continue to receive and address requests for Advisory Opinions and Ethics Complaints.
10. Evaluate the need for and method of holding a community discussion of Ethics in our City.
11. Clarify with City Administration a method for presenting education to Council, staff, citizens and members of City committees and commissions regarding the revised Code.

Respectfully submitted,



for the Board

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Joe Honick
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